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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SHAW).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 17, 1998.

I hereby designate the Honorable E. CLAY SHAW, Jr., to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

Our hearts and thoughts and minds praise You, O God, for You have created a world of infinite possibilities and You have created us with hearts with which to love, thoughts with which to create, and minds with which to reason. Yet, may we ever be aware that our thoughts are not Your thoughts and our ideas are not Your ideas and our love not Yours.

Give us wisdom so that we do not equate our limited faith with Your boundless blessings, nor our efforts at justice with Your perfect word. So with humility we pray that Your spirit will lift our spirits and guide us in the way of righteousness and goodwill.

This is our earnest prayer. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BLILEY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate passed bills and a concurrent resolution of the following titles, in which concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2143. An act to amend chapter 45 of title 28, United States Code, to authorize the Administrative Assistant to the Chief Justice to accept voluntary services, and for other purposes.

S. 2316. An act to require the Secretary of Energy to submit to Congress a plan to ensure that all amounts accrued on the books of the United States Enrichment Corporation for the disposition of depleted uranium hexafluoride will be used to treat and recycle depleted uranium hexafluoride.

S. Con. Res. 88. Concurrent resolution calling on Japan to have an open, competitive market for consumer photographic film and paper and other sectors facing market access barriers in Japan.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain seven 1 minutes from each side.

PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO CHINA

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, yes, President Clinton is back from his 9-

day, \$50 million, taxpayer-financed road trip to China. I have to give it to him, however; most Americans never get a chance to have an overseas vacation, let alone one where they take 1,200 of their closest friends.

While they did not accomplish much on the road, I think they probably set a record for the cost and size of a presidential delegation traveling abroad. The President's press secretary explained that "this wasn't just the President going to China, but this was the United States Government, and we brought a lot of government with us."

Mr. Speaker, I cannot think of anyone they did not take. But, when questioned, McCurry spilled the beans; "there might be people we shouldn't have included." Well, no kidding.

Now, I do not want to sound too critical. After all, they did cut corners where they could. I am told with only 600 rooms available at the Shanghai Ritz Carlton, our intrepid travelers bit the bullet and doubled up. Thank you, Mr. President, for that, saving what you could where you could.

I yield back the remainder of any pocket change this country may have.

PROTECT AMERICA'S BORDERS FROM DRUG SMUGGLERS

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the Drug Czar opposes it, the White House opposes it, Immigration opposes it, the Pentagon opposes it. They all oppose the Traficant program that authorizes but not mandates the use of troops to straighten out our border. But they also have some interesting company. The Colombian drug cartel is now reported opposing it. The Mexican drug lords oppose it and fear it. The Golden Triangle heroin bosses for the first time are worried about getting heroin into America.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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